

water and with the tubers exposed. Two weeks later (September 5) the plants were as fresh as ever, but the tubers had shrunk and shriveled to a fraction of their original size.

The blossoms, which last for three or four days, if not fertilized, open only in clear weather. On cloudy days and to a certain extent at night the flowers close. So far as I know, this is the only one of our native orchids to have this trait. The whole plant, except when it first appears in the bud and the capsule, is erect, and it little merits its common name of Nodding Pogonia.

PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND.

SCIRPUS ACUTUS Muhl.—In 1904, Mrs. Chase¹ differentiated in our flora four species which had been passing under the aggregate name *Scirpus lacustris* L., at the same time showing that the Old World plant is unknown from North America. The four species recognized by Mrs. Chase are *S. validus* Vahl., *S. occidentalis* (Wats.) Chase, *S. heterochaetus* Chase and *S. californicus* (C. A. Meyer) Britton. It would seem, however, that in proposing *S. occidentalis* as a new species she overlooked, as her followers have done, the clear description given in Bigelow's *Florula Bostoniensis* of *S. acutus*,² a new species ascribed by Bigelow to Muhlenberg. Bigelow's description was based on the plant of Fresh Pond, Cambridge, which was distinguished from *S. validus* (the *S. lacustris* of American authors of his time) by "Spikes . . . oblong and closely imbricate . . . In deep water at Fresh Pond and elsewhere."

Somewhat later, Muhlenberg himself published *S. acutus*,³ splendidly contrasting it with his *S. lacustris* (*S. validus* of Mrs. Chase's treatment): *S. lacustris* culmo . . . supra attenuato, *S. acutus* culmo . . . supra aequali nec attenuato, pleno maculato, maculis fuscis oblongis; *S. lacustris* spicis . . . ovatis, *S. acutus* spicis . . . oblongis; *S. lacustris* cal. gluma . . . obtusa . . . fusca, *S. acuta* cal. gluma fusca carinata mucronata pubens;

¹ Chase, RHODORA, vi, 65-71, tt. 52, 53 (1904).

² Muhl. ex Bigelow, Fl. Bost. 15 (1814).

³ Muhl. Descr. Gram. 33 (1817).

S. lacustris setis 4 hispidis semine sublongioribus, *S. acutus* setis hispidis 3 vel 4 [by implication semine nec longioribus].

Both Bigelow's description and Muhlenberg's unquestionably define *S. occidentalis* and the type station, "deep water at Fresh Pond," is likewise conclusive, for *S. occidentalis* was often collected in Fresh Pond in the days prior to its conversion into a reservoir, but the old collections show no material of *S. validus* from the pond, merely from the shallow Glacialis and other small pools of the region. There is no question then that we should revive the name.

SCIRPUS ACUTUS Muhl. ex Bigelow, Fl. Bost. 15. (1814); Descr. Gram. 33 (1817). *S. lacustris*, var. *occidentalis* Wats. Bot. Cal. ii. 218 (1880). *S. occidentalis* (Wats.) Chase, RHODORA, vi. 68, t. 53, fig. c (1904).

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